



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY



Public Hearing – February 3, 2009

Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony Submitted by:

Commissioner James M. Thomas

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Good Morning Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on three bills before you today.

The first bill I would like to comment on is SB 760- AAC Crisis Response Drills and Fire Drills.

This bill would require local and regional boards of education to conduct a crisis response drill, in lieu of a fire drill, once every three months.

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security believes school security will be greatly enhanced by regularly exercising crisis response plans. These exercises will better prepare schools to handle any emergency situation.

The second bill I would like to comment on is SB 761- AAC An Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database.

A number of municipalities have purchased emergency notification systems to communicate with their citizens in the event of an emergency. This bill would allow the state's municipalities and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to access the enhanced 9-1-1 database, free of charge, providing the most up to date information available for use with these emergency notification systems.

This use of the current 9-1-1 database will greatly enhance a municipality's ability to protect the safety of its residents by providing vital notifications during an emergency.

The last bill I would like to comment on is SB 762- AAC Mutual Aid or Mobile Support Units and Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Program Plans.

This bill clarifies the application of certain sections of Title 28 when civil preparedness forces are ordered to duty by the Governor or the Commissioner of DEMHS.

The bill also changes the submittal date from November 1st to May 1st and the approval date from December 1st to June 1st for the nuclear safety emergency preparedness program plan. This would allow towns and state agencies to complete necessary budget work before the submittal of the plan.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of these three pieces of legislation.